

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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INFO USMISSION BERLIN

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AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

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USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, GE, GW, PL

SUBJ: BREZHNEV TRIP TO POLAND AND GDR

1. SUMMARY. BREZHNEV'S ONE- NIGHT STANDS IN POLAND AND GDR SEEMS CLEARLY AIMED AT GIVING HIS POLISH AND EAST GERMAN FRIENDS A QUICK MASSAGE PRIOR TO HIS FRG TRIP. HIS TRAVELS ALSO CONTRIBUTED TO THE OVERFLOWING ADULATION HE HAS BEEN RECEIVING IN SOVIET MEDIA SINCE " WINNING" LENIN PEACE PRIZE. SOVIET- GDR COMMUNIQUE SEEMD TO TELEGRAPH A HARD LINE ON BERLIN IN HIS TALKS WITH BRANDT. END SUMMARY.

2. THE TRANSPARENCY OF BREZHEV' S GESTURE OF VISITING GIEREK AND HONECKER JUST PRIOR TO FRG TRIP FOR THE SAKE OF APPEARANCES WAS NOT MUCH OBSCURED BY HIS USING THE OCCASION TO PIN LENIN MEDALS ON THEM. WE NOTE THAT THE POLES UNDERLINED
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THAT THIS WAS A NON- VISIT BY EXTENDING AN INVITATION FOR A LATER VISIT BY A PARTY- STATE DELEGATION.

3. PASSAGE IN THE SOVIET- GDR COMMUNIQUE ABOUT QUADRIPARTITE

AGREEMENT AND BERLIN- FRG RELATIONSHIP INDICATES THAT BREZHNEV WILL AT LEAST INITIALLY TAKE TOUGH LINE ON THIS SUBJECT WHEN HE SEES BRANDT. EAST GERMANS ALSO MANAGED TO SLIP IN A REFERENCE TO " SOCIAL REFORMISM" (READ SPD) AS ONE TARGET OF JOINT PROPAGANDA STRUGGLE.

4. WE THOUGHT IT INTERESTING THAT WHILE SOVIET- GDR COMMUNIQUE TWICE REFERRED TO INVIOABILITY OF FRONTIERS, SOVIET- POLISH COMMUNIQUE DID NOT TOUCH THE SUBJECT. WE ALSO DETECTED A DIFFERENCE IN TONE BETWEEN THE TWO DOCUMENTS ON THE SUBJECT OF BLOC UNITY AND COORDINATED FOREIGN POLICY, THE EAST GERMANS WHOLEHEARTEDLY SUBSCRIBING TO COORDINATED BLOC ACTIONS WHILE POLES TENDED TO LIMIT THEIR COMMITMENT TO BILATERAL EFFORTS.

5. BREZHNEV - HONECKER EXCHANGE OF SPEECHES MAY 13 MAY HAVE REFLECTED IN PART THEIR PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS. THUS BREZHNEV ASSERTED THAT GOOD NEIGHBORLINESS IN EUROPE CANNOT BE ACHIEVED " WITHOUT POLITICAL BOLDNESS, UNDERSTANDING OF BASIC INTERESTS OF ONE' S OWN COUNTRY AND BROADER INTERESTS OF PEACE IN EUROPE." AND HONECKER RESPONDED THAT GDR FAVORS SOVIET PEACE PROGRAM BUT STANDS FOR FULFILLMENT OF TREATIES IN " LETTER AND SPIRIT" WHICH REQUIRES " EQUAL COOPERATION OF SOVEREIGN STATES" AND " FULL RESPECT FOR BORDERS TODAY AND IN THE FUTURE."

6. VISITS PROVIDED MEDIA WITH ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES TO REPORT RECOGNITION OF BREZHNEV' S PERSONAL ROLE IN IMPLEMENTING " PEACE PROGRAM" AND AWARD OF LENIN PEACE PRIZE TO HIM. BOTH GIEREK AND HONECKER QUOTED AS PAYING PERSONAL HOMAGE TO BREZHNEV DURING CEREMONIES IN WHICH HE AWARDED THE ORDERS OF LENIN. AS IF TRAVEL COVERAGE NOT SUFFICIENT, PRAVDA MAY 13 DEVOTED VAST PART OF SECOND PAGE TO LISTING SOVIET GROUPS WHICH HAVE SENT CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES TO BREZHNEV IN CONNECTION WITH LENIN PEACE PRIZE. POSSIBLY TO OFFSET GROWING FOCUS ON BREZHNEV, INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT AIRPORT PHOTO TAKEN ON HIS RETURN TO MOSCOW MAY 13 AND PUBLISHED IN CENTRAL PRESS MAY 14 PICTURES BREZHNEV IN FRONT ROW PROMINENTLY FLANKED BY PODGORNIY, KOSYGIN, SUSLOV, KIRILENKI
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AND GROMYKO.
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